

ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.: 041501-5431

Application No.: 09/893,991

Page 8

REMARKS

Applicants representative thank the Examiner for the courtesies extended during the personal interview of February 20, 2004.

Summary of the Office Action

Claims 1-4 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,078,364 to Atherton.

Claims 5-9 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,078,364 to Atherton in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,088,071 to Yamamoto et al.

Claims 10-12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,078,364 to Atherton in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,659,375 to Yamashita et al.

Claims 13-20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,078,364 to Atherton in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,659,375 to Yamashita et al. and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,088,071 to Yamamoto et al.

Summary of the Response to the Office Action

Claims 2 and 12 are cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the features of previous claim 2. Claim 10 has been amended to incorporate the features of previous claim 12. Accordingly, claims 1, 3-11 and 13-20 are presently pending for consideration.

ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.: 041501-5431

Application No.: 09/893,991

Page 9

Claims 1, 3 and 4 comply with 35 U.S.C. § 102(e)

Claims 1-4 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,078,364 to Atherton. Applicants respectfully submit that the 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) rejection of claims 1-4 should be withdrawn since Atherton does not teach or suggest all of the features recited in claim 1, as amended. For example, claim 1 now recites, amongst other features, "pixel electrodes respectively arranged in corresponding pixel areas such that each pixel electrode is substantially bilaterally symmetric about a vertical reference line crossing the center of the respectively corresponding pixel area in a direction of the data lines, wherein each of the pixel electrodes has a shape in which a lower right corner and a lower left corner thereof are removed."

As discussed during the February 20, 2004 personal interview, Applicants respectfully submit that Atherton does not have a pixel electrode substantially bilaterally symmetric about a vertical reference line crossing the center of a pixel area in a direction of the data lines. Further, Atherton does not have a pixel electrode with a shape in which a lower right corner and a lower left corner thereof are removed. The areas 45 in FIG. 2 of Atherton are openings in the black matrix 45 of the device. Applicants respectfully submit that these openings are not indicative of the shape of the pixel electrode 30 in Atherton. Further, Applicants respectfully submit that the pixel electrode of Atherton is just substantially rectangular as indicated at lines 1-3 of column 3 in Atherton area in a direction of the data lines 200. Furthermore, Applicants respectfully submit that the pixel electrode 30 of Atherton does not have symmetry about a vertical line crossing the center of the pixel area because of the strip 42 that extends from the pixel electrode 30.

ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.: 041501-5431

Application No.: 09/893,991

Page 10

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that Atherton does not teach or suggest a pixel electrode substantially bilaterally symmetric about a vertical reference line crossing the center of a pixel area in a direction of the data lines or a pixel electrode with a shape in which a lower right corner and a lower left corner thereof are removed. In addition, Applicants respectfully assert that dependent claims 3 and 4 are allowable at least because of their dependencies on claim 1 and for the additional features that claims 2 and 4 recite. The rejection of claim 2 is moot in light of the cancellation of this claim. Thus, Applicants respectfully request that the 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) rejection of claims 1-4 be withdrawn.

Claims 5-9 comply with 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 5-9 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,078,364 to Atherton in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,088,071 to Yamamoto et al. As set forth during the personal interview of February 20, 2004, Applicants respectfully submit that the 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) rejection of claims 5-9 should be withdrawn since neither Atherton nor Yamamoto et al. teach or suggest, either separately or in combination, all of the features recited in claim 5. Independent claim 5 recites, amongst other features, that "a pair of a first projection and a second projection projecting from an adjacent scan line at one side, the first projection being separated from the second projection" and "in each of the pixel areas, the pixel electrode has a projection connected to the TFT, the projection of the pixel electrode being disposed between the first projection and the second projection of the adjacent scan line."

ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.: 041501-5431

Application No.: 09/893,991

Page 11

As also set forth in the personal interview of February 20, 2004, Applicants respectfully submit that Atherton does not teach or suggest a pair of a first projection and a second projection projecting from an adjacent scan line at one side. Further, Applicants respectfully submit that Atherton does not teach or suggest in each of the pixel areas, the pixel electrode has a projection connected to the TFT, the projection of the pixel electrode being disposed between the first projection and the second projection. Furthermore, Applicants respectfully submit that Yamamoto et al. does not make up for the deficiencies of Atherton in that Yamamoto et al. does not teach or suggest in each of the pixel areas, the pixel electrode has a projection connected to the TFT, the projection of the pixel electrode being disposed between the first projection and the second projection.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully assert that Atherton and Yamamoto et al. do not teach or suggest, either separately or in combination, all of the features recited in claim 5. In addition, Applicants respectfully assert that dependent claims 6-9 are allowable at least because of their dependence on claim 5 and for the additional features that claims 6-9 recite. Thus, Applicants respectfully request that the 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) rejection of claims 5-9 be withdrawn.

Claims 10 and 11 comply with 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 10-12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,078,364 to Atherton in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,659,375 to Yamashita et al. Applicants respectfully submit that the 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) rejection of claims 10 and 11 should be withdrawn since neither Atherton nor Yamashita et al. teach or suggest, either separately or in

ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.: 041501-5431

Application No.: 09/893,991

Page 12

combination, all of the features recited in claim 10, as amended. For example, claim 10 now recites, amongst other features, "a pixel electrode in each pixel area, connected to still another terminal of the thin film transistor in the pixel area, the pixel electrode having a pattern configured to yield substantially the same capacitance value for capacitors that are formed between the pixel electrode and the adjacent data line on one side and between the pixel electrode and the adjacent data line on another side, wherein the pixel electrode has a substantially rectangular pattern in which a lower right corner and a lower left corner thereof are removed by substantially the same amount."

As discussed during the February 20, 2004 personal interview, Applicants respectfully submit that Atherton does not have a pixel electrode with a shape in which a lower right corner and a lower left corner thereof are removed. As discussed above, the areas 45 in FIG. 2 of Atherton are openings in the black matrix 45 of the device. Applicants respectfully submit that these openings are not indicative of the shape of the pixel electrode 30 in Atherton. Further, Applicants respectfully submit that Yamashita et al. does not address these deficiencies of Atherton. In other words, Yamashita et al. has no teaching or suggestion with regard to a pixel electrode having a substantially rectangular pattern in which a lower right corner and a lower left corner thereof are removed by substantially the same amount.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully assert that Atherton and Yamashita et al. do not teach or suggest, either separately or in combination, all of the features recited in claim 10. In addition, Applicants respectfully assert that dependent claim 11 is allowable at least because of its dependence on claim 10 and for the additional features that claim 11 recites. The rejection of

ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.: 041501-5431

Application No.: 09/893,991

Page 13

claim 12 is moot in light of the cancellation of this claim. Thus, Applicants respectfully request that the 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) rejection of claims 10-12 be withdrawn.

Claims 13-20 comply with 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 13-20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,078,364 to Atherton in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,659,375 to Yamashita et al. and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,088,071 to Yamamoto et al. As discussed above, Yamashita et al. and Yamamoto et al. do not make up for the deficiencies of Atherton. Accordingly, dependent claims 13-20, which depend from claim 10, are allowable for at least the reasons discussed above with respect to claim 10, and for the additional features that they recite. Thus, Applicants respectfully request that the 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) rejection of claims 13-20 be withdrawn.

ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.: 041501-5431

Application No.: 09/893,991

Page 14

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and the timely allowance of the pending claims. Should the Examiner feel that there are any issues outstanding after consideration of the response, the Examiner is invited to contact the Applicants undersigned representative to expedite prosecution.

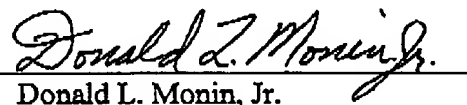
If there are any other fees due in connection with the filing of this response, please charge the fees to our Deposit Account No. 50-0310. If a fee is required for an extension of time under 37.C.F.R. 1.136 not accounted for above, such an extension is requested and the fee should also be charged to our Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

MORGAN, LEWIS & BOCKIUS LLP

Dated:

By:



Donald L. Monin, Jr.

Reg. No. 47,256

Customer No.: 009629

MORGAN, LEWIS & BOCKIUS LLP

1111 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.

Washington, D.C. 20004

Telephone: 202-739-3000

Facsimile: 202-739-3001